

WATER/ABJ/DON/EYC:jrb

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Water Division
Water Advisory Branch**

**RESOLUTION No. W- 4267
May 3, 2001**

R E S O L U T I O N

**(Res. W-4267), HILLVIEW WATER COMPANY (HWC). ORDER
AUTHORIZING IMPLEMENTATION OF MORE RESTRICTIVE
MANDATORY CONSERVATION.**

By Advice Letter No. 67 filed on March 28, 2001

SUMMARY

This Resolution grants HWC authority to implement more restrictive mandatory conservation in its Oakhurst-Sierra Lakes service area because water from its major source for the area contains excessive uranium. HWC requests this authority to comply with directives of the California Department of Health Services (DHS).

BACKGROUND

HWC serves 1,302 customers in the Madera County communities of Coarsegold, Oakhurst and Raymond with 950 customers in its Oakhurst-Sierra Lakes service area. DHS has detected excessive levels of uranium in water from HWC's Well No. 4, but through blending in its distribution system, the water delivered to customers has met the drinking water standards. By Resolution No. W-4203, HWC was authorized to implement mandatory conservation. Now it appears more stringent mandatory conservation will be necessary to prevent excess uranium in the water from Well No. 4 from entering the system. Instead of three days per week of allowed exterior watering, HWC requests such use be limited to two days per week from 8 p. m to 8 a. m. DHS has indicated it supports HWC's conservation efforts. The plan HWC submitted by Advice Letter No. 67, on March 23, 2001, provides a schedule for outdoor watering, car washing, and filling of swimming pools, enforced by rules that permit placing a device to restrict the flow to the service connection of a non-complying user.

DISCUSSION

HWC's tariffs contain Rule 14.1 that specifies steps that customers must take during periods of water conservation and rationing. Voluntary conservation may be initiated by HWC at any time that it believes supplies may be insufficient to meet demand provided it notifies the Water Division of doing so. If more stringent measures are required, HWC may implement mandatory rationing after securing Commission approval and by filing Schedule 14.1 that details specific conservation requirements, rules, fees, and charges. This advice letter constitutes such a filing seeking Commission approval.

By Resolution No. 4203, HWC was authorized to implement Mandatory Conservation. This Resolution places more restrictions on HWC's Mandatory Conservation Plan.

The Water Division has reviewed the proposal and the request of DHS. It recommends that the Commission approve this request.

NOTICE AND PROTESTS

A notice of the proposed Mandatory Water Conservation Plan was mailed to each customer in the affected area on May 24, 2000. As required by Section 351 of the Water Code, HWC held a public meeting on June 2, 2000, describing the rules, the placement of flow restrictors, and the procedure for resolving disputes. Approximately 20 people attended. In addition, HWC published a Notice of Filing a more restrictive Mandatory Conservation Plan in a local Newspaper and by direct mail to each customer in March 2001.

FINDINGS

1. HWC already has a Mandatory Water Conservation Plan authorized by Resolution No. W-4203 dated June 22, 2000.
2. HWC's more restrictive Mandatory Water Conservation Plan is appropriate and necessary to prevent excessive concentration of uranium in the water distributed to customers.

3. HWC has provided notice and held a public meeting as required by Sections 350 and 351 of the Water Code.
4. The conditions proposed by HWC for more restrictive mandatory water conservation are justified and the corresponding rates and rules are just and reasonable.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Authority is granted under Public Utilities Code Section 454 for Hillview Water Company, to make effective revised Schedule No. 14.1, Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing, as filed by Advice Letter No. 67, and to concurrently cancel the presently effective schedule. The revised schedule shall become effective five days after the date of this resolution.
2. This resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on May 3, 2001; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

WESLEY M. FRANKLIN
Executive Director

LORETTA M. LYNCH
President

HENRY M. DUQUE

RICHARD A. BILAS

CARL W. WOOD

GEOFFREY F. BROWN

Commissioners